

# **Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island**

## **Youth Council Minutes**

**March 19, 2009**

**Present: Everett Amaral, Vanessa Cooley, Joseph DeSantis, Alberto DeBurgo, Andrew DeTora, Joseph DiPina, Cynthia Farrell, Sharon Gainey, Elizabeth Gilheeney, and Andrew Tyska.**

**Also attending was Lee Lewis from Junior Achievement, Mavis McGetrick and Maureen Palumbo from State Workforce Investment Office. Staff attending was Christine Grieco, Carlos Ribeiro, and Adrianna Goode.**

**With a quorum present, Chair Cynthia Farrell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.**

**Chair Cynthia Farrell introduced Lee Lewis, who is a potential member of the WPGRI Youth Council.**

**Chair Cynthia Farrell stated to the Council the addition of Maureen Palumbo to the agenda.**

**Minutes of January 29, 2009**

**Chair Cynthia Farrell asked the Council to review the minutes of January 29, 2009.**

**VOTE: Vanessa Cooley motioned to accept the minutes as written,**

**and Joseph DiPina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **DLT Youth Services Updates**

**Maureen Palumbo proposed to the Youth Council that one or two youth center managers be invited to each Council meeting to inform and update the Council.**

**Maureen notified the Council of the BEST training that is currently running for 40 youth workers.**

**Maureen announced the 3rd annual Youth CONFAB, called YouthWorks411, which will be held on May 20th at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. The CONFAB will include youth system updates, presentations from the ISDI partners, and breakout sessions between approximately 60 vendors. Due to the vendor fair being cancelled, the vendors will have an opportunity to network at the CONFAB.**

**Maureen explained the Business Engagement Group to the Council, which is a business advisory committee that meets once a month. The group wants to provide support for the youth centers and is eventually looking to regionalize and become resources to the centers in their areas. An event is in the works for late September of this year for a Resume Café to do one on one resume critiques with approximately 60 youth.**

### **Youth Program Enrollments and Services**

**Carlos Ribeiro presented to the Council the changes in WIA contracts since 2001. He also explained WPGRI's current youth WIA enrollment levels.**

**Carlos announced that WPGRI hired a Program Monitor. Her responsibilities include handling the eligibility for potential youth WIA candidates among other things.**

**Carlos presented to the Council the changes in JDF contracts since 2007. He also explained WPGRI's current youth JDF enrollment levels.**

### **2009 Funding Recommendations**

**Last meeting, the Council discussed funding additional programs if more money became available based on ranking and their cost. Carlos announced that WPGRI can fund Family Resources with additional money.**

**VOTE: Joseph DeSantis motioned to recommend the Board fund Family Resources, and Andrew DeTora seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **2009 Funds – Stimulus WIA Summer Programs**

**Carlos announced that WPGRI will be receiving approximately \$2.4 million for youth this summer to serve about 1000 youth. Carlos announced that an RFP will be issued by the end of the month and**

that WPGRI will need readers to review proposals. He also stated the stipulations of the stimulus money usage for youth; and the different types of proposals agencies could apply for. Handouts were given on the expected timeline of the procurement process and the TEGL definition of work readiness for the stimulus summer youth programs. The Council discussed foreseeable challenges and possible timeline changes.

### **New WPGRI Staff**

Christine Grieco notified the Council that Sharon Geoffrey has been hired as a monitor for WPGRI. A coordinator will begin work at WPGRI on April 13th. Plans to hire 8 temporary staff to work under the Stimulus dollars are forthcoming for WPGRI. Five of these temporary staff will be assigned to Carlos to conduct eligibility checks for the summer youth program under Stimulus.

### **Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.